

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,623,601 to Vu (hereafter, "the Vu reference").

The Vu reference discloses a firewall "gateway station 14" that "provides a secure interface between a private network 10 and a public network 12."¹ The gateway station "has one device address for its communications connection with the private network 10 and another device address for its communications connection with the public network 12."² The Vu reference makes the gateway station 14 "transparent" by advertising to the public network one device address, and advertising a different device address to the private network.³

Applicant's network screen differs from all prior art devices by advertising no device addresses to the network. Because Applicant's claimed network screen advertises no addresses to the network, it is rendered invisible. Applicant claims a combination of features. No prior art reference has Applicant's combination of features. Vu teaches a different combination of features, i.e., naming different device addresses to the network. The fact that both Vu's and Applicant's firewalls are transparent/invisible does not mean that Applicant's claims read on Vu. On the contrary, Applicant's invention is patentably distinct from the Vu reference.

As Applicant argued in the previous Amendment:

¹ Vu reference at column 7, lines 25-27

² Vu reference at column 7, lines 48-51

³ Vu reference at column 7, lines 48-53

"A transparent firewall is not taught in conventional computer networks, because firewalls are given an address in order to access the firewall using the same computer network to which the firewall is connected."

The mere fact that the Vu reference claims to have a "transparent firewall" does not make Applicant's claims anticipated, even though Applicant argued that his claims result in a transparent firewall. Instead, the Vu reference must meet the claim limitations. A review of the Vu reference shows that it does not meet the limitations, because it clearly advertises addresses to the network.

No prior art reference executes packet traffic security functions while naming no address to the network. This is unique to Applicant's invention. Therefore, the amended claims 1-8 are allowable, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

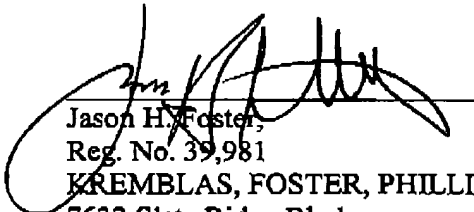
Applicant has herein amended claim 1 to remove language referring to a "program" that is part of the "software" in the network screen in order to make the claim more clear.

The Examiner is authorized to communicate with the undersigned attorney by email by the following recommended authorization language: Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file.
(authorization pursuant to MPEP 502.03)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-3393 for any insufficient fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment of fees.

Respectfully submitted,

30 May 2006
Date of Signature


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
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